The Brethren Evangelist.

PUBLISHED AT THE BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

"Let Us go on Unto Perfection."

TERMS, $1.50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME IX. ASHLAND, OHIO, APRIL 13, 1887. NUMBER 15.

A Prayer.

Father! in my life's young morning,
May thy word direct my way;
Let me heed each gracious warning,
Lest my feet should go astray:
Make me willing
All its precepts to obey.

Father! gentle is thy teaching:
Be a docile spirit mine:
Every day Thy grace beseeching,
Let thy loving kindness shine
Always on me
And my heart be wholly thine.

Father! let me never covet
Things of vanity and pride:
Teach me truth and may I love it
Better than all else beside:
Blessed Bible!
May it be my heavenward guide.

THOMAS MACKELLER.

Our Ramblings.

The writer left his home in Morrill, Brown Co., Kansas, on Wednesday, March 9th, for his new field of labor at South Haven, Sumner Co. During our seven years residence in Morrill, we formed many dear acquaintances and neighbors, from whom it seemed hard to separate. On Sunday before leaving, we filled the pulpit morning and evening, in the Christian church at Morrill, preaching our farewell sermon to a full house of old neighbors in the evening. Our brethren living mostly in the country could not well attend on account of the almost impassable roads. The large attendance and respectful attention at our farewell service, made us feel the more attached to the good, kind-hearted and intelligent Christian people of our quiet and civil little burg.

On our way to South Haven, we fell in company with Eld. E. Eby and wife, who boarded the train at Topeka and were enroute to their new home in Reno Co. We travelled together as far as Newton, Kans. Our interview was pleasant. Arrived at South Haven on Thursday at 2:30 p. m. I visited among brethren and friends till Sunday, March 13th, when we preached our introductory sermon. Services again in the evening. Attendance fair. We found this church in peace, union and love, and we mean, with God's help, to exert our little influence to keep it thus united and loving.

On Monday, March 14th, we boarded the train for Winfield, Cowley Co., to work at our trade. We found employment at fair wages, and a blessed thing it proved to us, we were nearly out of money. After paying a half week's board in advance and making a few other necessary purchases, we had left between four and five dollars, which a sneak-thief stole from us during the night and we were left penyless.

After working at Winfield 4½ days, we returned to South Haven to fill another Sunday's appointment. Here we met Bro. J. C. Cripe, of Dowagiac, Mich. Bro. Cripe preached us a very instructive sermon on Sunday evening. On Monday, March 21st, we accompanied him to Witchata to look up church interests there. That city should be made a mission post by the brethren. On Wednesday, the 23rd, we came to Mulvane, preached two evenings near that place. Preaching by the Brethren is much needed at that place. On Friday we came to Harader's Mills, in Cowley, Co.; but to our chagrin found Bro. and sister D. Harader gone to South Haven. I wish Bro. Dan and sister Kate would stay at home when I go to their place. We were very kindly entertained by Bro. Lee Harader, brother to Daniel. Bro. Lee, though connected as yet with the German Baptist church, is thoroughly progressive. He treated and fellowshipped us with brotherly kindness.

On Saturday he had us brought to Winfield. We went home that evening with bro. John Easton, eight miles east of Winfield, where we held a protracted meeting seven years ago. I fround many old and kind-hearted friends. Preached to respectable congregations on Sunday morning and evening in Rose Valley school house. The brethren here are as yet all connected with the German Baptist church, but are progressive. Every one we met fellowshipped us and recognized us in brotherly affection as of old. With many of them we worshipped years ago in Iowa. They are in an unpleasant condition spiritually. Elder rule has left its effects upon this little band.

Here too, a mission post should be established. O what work there is for the Brethren in Kansas. Will we come to the help of the wounded, brethren? Will we make the needed sacrifice? How many brethren will help us with a few dollars to build up the cause and effect a healthy Brethren organization in Cowley Co.? It can be done.

Our family is not yet with us. We expect them next week, if my wife's health will permit. We feel lonesome in the thought of being away from our family and the mother too sick to attend to the wants of the family.

We ask an interest in the prayers of God's children in our behalf. Will let you hear from us frequently, dear EVANGELIST.

For the present farewell.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

South Haven, Kans., March 30.

Miami Valley Items.

The churches in the "Valley" are prospering and in good working order.

There will be a communion meeting at the Lexington church, one mile north of West Alexandria, on the evening of Tuesday, May 24th.

We visit the Pleasant Hill church every four weeks, and preach Saturday evening and Sunday morning and evening. Everything moves along very encouragingly. At our regular meetings here we have full houses, and sometimes they are crowded and overflowing.

At our regular meeting in March, two members united with us by relation, and at our April meeting one more united with us—all from the German Baptists.

The congregation at Pleasant Hill also intend to have a communion meeting on Saturday evening, April 30th.

Bro. P. J. Brown worked hard for us in the "Valley" for nearly three months. His sermons and plain masterly expositions of scripture were highly appreciated and will long be remembered by those who heard them.

He held meetings at Bear Creek, Lexington and Little York.

The Bear Creek meetings have already been reported—result two additions. Then Bro. J. H. Worst followed up making in all eight accessions.

The meetings at Lexington resulted in six accessions, one of which was from the German Baptists.

From Lexington we went to Little York. This is entirely a new field, and lies about eight miles north of Dayton.

About a year ago, through the instrumentality of our zealous young brother V. E. Wampler, a hall was leased for five years. It is substantially, neatly and snugly fitted up, and two meetings have been held regularly there every month.

Bro. Brown preached some powerful sermons there, and the capacity of our house was put to a severe test on several occasions.

On Thursday afternoon, March 31st, we met here for organization, and twelve members organized themselves into what will be known henceforth as the Brethren church at Little York. Bro. V. E. Wampler was elected and ordained deacon of the new organization.

Meetings will be held regularly here every two weeks.

The outlook here as well as in all other parts of the Valley is encouraging.

A Love feast will very probably be held here sometime in May.

Bro. J. H. Worst held us a two weeks' meeting at Winchester—result seven accessions.

The total result of the campaign in the Valley as far as I know is fifty accessions and a new church. Although very little has been written from the Miami Valley during the winter, it can be seen we were not idle.

In a week or so we expect to move our little family to our old home at Ashland.

As to our future field and arrangements we can not say definitely at present, only that we will continue to work on in the Master's cause.

At our last visit to Pleasant Hill, we filled out a lot of Certificates of Baptism for all those whom we had baptized, since we commenced preaching there about a year ago. And on Saturday evening we distributed them. At the close of the meeting, amidst a dead silence, the names were called, and each one, to the number of about thirty, came up and received their certificates. This little ceremony was entirely unexpected and was very impressive, and gave the people some idea of the result of our year's work. Although this is not all by any means, for about seven or eight united with us from the German Baptists.

We expect to do this to all of those whom we have baptized in the different churches in the Valley. And it would be well if all our ministers would do the same. The Certificates are neat, cheap and appropriate, and very highly appreciated by the new members.

EDWARD MASON.

To the Brethren and Sisters at West Independence, Ohio.

Greeting.—Having a little leisure this evening, we will improve the time by addressing you and thus redeem our promise made you to that effect. We are pleasantly and happily situated in our new home; our surroundings are pleasant and congenial. Auburn is a town of about 12 or 15 hundred inhabitants, situated in Sangamon county, on the Chicago and Alton railway, 200 miles south of Chicago. It has six church houses, and seven organizations, and nearly all its citizens are members of some church.

Auburn is strictly a temperance town; there is not a saloon in it, and this is rather remarkable for a town of its size and importance, especially in this country. We have preaching every alternate Lord's day morning and evening. Sabbath school every Sabbath, prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. Our little church of 40 members are fully awake to the duties of the hour, working faithfully and zealously together as one man for the cause of the blessed Master. How pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in harmony. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

We are truly thankful that our lot has again fallen in pleasant places—but you are not forgotten. West Independence, as a church, has a warm place in our heart, and the kindness shown us by you will not soon be forgotten. We often think of the Leedy family and their kindness shown us. Then there are the Crawfords, Krabills, Hazens, and many others whose kindness and hospitality we have so often shared. But their familiar faces are no longer seen by us, yet our prayer to God is that they may ever prove faithful and worthy of their high vocation, and that we in God's all wise providence may some day meet again.

A. M. RIDENOUR.

Auburn, Ill., April 2nd, 1887.

North Manchester, Ind.

April 5.—After a season of silence, we come again with encouraging news informing the brotherhood that Manchester is yet engaged in the vineyard of the Lord, and amid all the wiles of the devil, the ship of Zion is drifting toward the harbor.

We disappointed our congregation last Sunday in consequence of being called to Peru on Saturday evening to preach a funeral. But through railroad accommodations we were permitted to reach home in time for service on Sabbath evening. We had a good meeting. The spirit of the Lord was with us and two precious souls were willing to give us their hands and we trust Jesus their heart to live in his service while the lamp of life continues to burn. We think others are near to the door. May they be encouraged to come in and share the blessings that the child of God can realize.

We have not labored any in the evangelistic field this winter owing to poor health and pastoral service; but I am on my way at present to Lima, Ind., where I shall try to tell the old story of redeeming love. Brethren pray for us. We need the prayers of God's people.

Our Sabbath School is flourishing nicely; it is an evergreen school, that is, it lives all winter, and through the untiring energy of Bro. Penrod, as superintendent, we closed a successful Sabbath school year last Sabbath. We say successful from the fact that the school increased in number and interest with the literature paid for a year in advance and $15 in the treasury.

Our Bible class, on Tuesday evenings is growing in interest under the supervision of the Brethren generally. Our prayer meetings, on Friday evenings are well attended, and soul inspiring. Work while it is called to day.

WM. W. SUMMERS.

Indian Creek, Ind.

I thought as God saw fit to give us such a beautiful morning this first day of April, I would improve part of the time in writing a few lines to the EVANGELIST. I have just been reading the letters from others and it does me good to hear that so many are willing to give up the ways of sin and come out on the Lord's side.

There is some difficulty in our church and it don't prosper much. I guess some of us members do more finding fault than praying. I don't see why it is so for God is the judge and why do we try to judge one another? We have two ministers. Brother Ditch preaches every four weeks for us and Bro. Neff every four weeks, so we have preaching every two weeks and that is all. Too few get out to preaching. I think God will reward us according to our work, and why do we not do more for our Savior who suffered and died for our sins, and is now pleading for our salvation?

I must say a few words to the children who love our paper enough to write. I love to read your little letters and I pray to God to encourage you in your good beginning and when you become men and women put your trust in God and be good Christians, and you will have your reward in heaven. God knows what is best for all of us. We can be sure of one thing. God will never direct us wrong if we go to him in prayer.

Now I say to all, pray, that when we appear before the bar of God we may all be prepared to meet God in peace. With my Bible for my guide and God for my trust, I am bound to live a Christian; and brethren and sisters who reads this, it we do not know one another in this world, my prayer is that we will all meet with God in heaven.

ADALINE TAGART.